Jusserand, J A A J [French Ambassador].

June 1916
(77)

June 29th, 1916

His Excellency J. A. A. J. Jusserand,

Embassy of France,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The Head of our Department of French in the University of Toronto has recently resigned, and we are very desirous of securing as an addition to our staff, not necessarily as head, some young man who will bring distinction to the University and serve us especially in the Department of French. It has occurred to me that if we could secur a man of promise from France, one who was not only a student of French Literature and History but also who understood English as well, he would serve our purpose admirably. If he were to come to us even for two or three years and return to France we should be glad to have such an arrangement made. His coming would serve to weld together our two countries more firmly than ever. He would bring to us the spirit of France and if he were to return after a few years he would carry back an appreciation of the meaning of our life. The working of such a scheme would therefore depend upon the quality of the man who would come to us. We might offer him as Associate Professorship at $2500 a year with annual increases of salary.

I am aware that you may think that I am approaching you on a subject that is not within the scope of an Ambassador's position ,

but I am approaching you because you are a literary man and interested in academic affairs and I am sure you will be able to give me advice as to how I should proceed , provided that you approve of my suggestion. A further reason for my approaching you is that this University has shown its high regard for your service as a scholar and statesman by offering you its highest honorary degree.

With much respect, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.